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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West Nile Virus Evidence in Sedgwick County

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has confirmed that birds and mosquitoes collected in Sedgwick County have tested positive for West Nile Virus. There are no human cases in Sedgwick County at this time.

West Nile Virus, which is spread through the bite of a mosquito, is predicted to be here to stay, much like lyme disease. However, there are several steps you can take to reduce mosquito breeding and avoid mosquito bites, both of which will help reduce your chances of being bitten by an infected mosquito.

Reduce Mosquito Breeding:

Eliminating standing water in your yard will reduce mosquito breeding.

This could include water in old tires, flower pots, abandoned swimming pools, folded tarps, bird baths and non-flowing water gardens and many other items which hold water for a few days.

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Treat water in ponds and water gardens.

Add larva-eating minnows (such as shiners or tuffies) from a bait shop.

Safe products are available which will not harm pets, ornamental fish or plants.

Avoid Mosquito Bites:

Consider staying indoors during peak mosquito biting times – dawn, dusk and early evening.

Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.

Apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing and sparingly to exposed skin (avoid applying repellent to hands of children, it may be irritating.)

"We know that West Nile Virus is here to stay," said Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Tim Norton. "Following steps to avoid bites is the best way you can protect yourself and your family."

For more information on West Nile Virus, contact the Sedgwick County Health Department at 660-7392.